

The Book

The Last Policeman

What's the point in solving murders if we're all going to die? **Concord, New Hampshire** Detective Hank Palace has asked this question ever since asteroid 2011GV1 hovered into view. Several kilometers wide, it's on a collision course with planet Earth, with just six precious months until impact.

Industry is grinding to a halt. Most people have abandoned their jobs. But not Hank Palace. As our story opens, he's investigating the latest suicide in a city that's full of suicides—only this one feels wrong. This one feels like homicide. And Palace is the only one who cares.

2012 Edgar Award
Amazon.com Best Books of 2012
Slate Best Books of 2012

Review:

Winters has crafted a compelling mystery with surprising twists and turns, but more impressively he has crafted a world slowly collapsing under the prospect of its imminent demise. The responses of individuals, institutions, and governments to the threat from the sky are all considered in the context of Palace's murder investigation. VERDICT: This thought-provoking mystery should appeal to crime fiction aficionados who like an unusual setting and readers looking for a fresh take on apocalypse stories. – Dan Forrest, Western Kentucky Univ. Libs., Bowling Green. Library Journal, July 2012, p. 63

A librarian blogger said of the book: "It's a true genre mash-up. It is mystery, science fiction and literary all rolled into one. The main character, Hank Palace, is an endearing, if slightly naïve and inept policeman."

Books 2 and 3 in the Last Policeman series:

Countdown City, the second book in the series, won the Philip K. Dick Award for science-fiction writing, and was recognized by NPR on their list of top books of 2013.

World of Trouble has already been lauded in Library Journal ("It's impossible not to like Detective Hank Palace") and Kirkus ("As fascinating as Winters' imagined societal breakdown can be, it's his attention to human connections—heartfelt, heroic and lethal—that really make this trilogy worth reading.")



Photo source: www.nuvo.net

About the Author

Ben H. Winters is the author of seven novels, including this year's Concord Reads pick, ***The Last Policeman***, Book One in the Last Policeman Trilogy. ***The Last Policeman*** was the recipient of the 2012 Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America; it was also named one of the Best Books of 2012 by Amazon.com and Slate. The second book in the series, *Countdown City*, was an NPR Best Book of 2013 and the winner of the Philip K. Dick Award. The final book in the series, *The World of Trouble*, came out in July of 2014.

Ben's other books include the *New York Times* bestselling parody novel *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters*; *Literally Disturbed*, a book of scary poems for kids; and two novels for young readers, *The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman* (HarperCollins), which was a Bank Street Best Children's Book of 2011 as well as an Edgar Nominee in the juvenile category, and *The Mystery of the Missing Everything*.

Ben has also written extensively for the theater, and was a 2009-2010 Fellow of the Dramatists Guild. His plays for young audiences include *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*, *A (Tooth) Fairy Tale* and *Uncle Pirate*, and his plays for not-young audiences include the 2008 Off-Broadway musical *Slut* and the "jukebox musical" *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*, which is produced frequently across the country and around the world. Ben's journalism has appeared in *The Chicago Reader*, *The Nation*, *In These Times*, *USA Today*, the *Huffington Post*, and lots of other places.

Ben grew up in suburban Maryland, went to college at Washington University in St. Louis, and has subsequently lived in six different cities—seven if you count Brooklyn twice for two different times. Presently he lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife Diana, a law professor, and their three children.

Source:

<http://benhwinters.com/about/>